

BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801 (775) 753-0200

DATE: April 25, 2003
ELKO FIELD OFFICE: 2003-31
FOR RELEASE: April 25, 2003

CONTACT: Janice Stadelman
(775) 753-0346
e-mail: Janice_Stadelman@nv.blm.gov

Hecla Mining Company Proposes Hollister Development Block Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Elko Field Office has received the Hollister Development Block Project proposal from Hecla Mining Company to conduct underground exploration for gold at the existing Ivanhoe (also called Hollister) Mine site. This project is located approximately 47 miles northwest of Elko, Nevada in Elko County on BLM-administered public lands. Public comment on the proposed project is requested.

The proposed Hollister Development Block Project would consist of constructing an underground decline, including the associated drifts and crosscuts to support the underground exploration program; construction of a waste rock disposal facility; construction of a sample storage facility; construction of a maintenance facility and lube storage area; construction of a laydown area; construction of water management facilities, including de-silting basins, water recycling and surge ponds, rapid infiltration basins, oil/water separator and associated pipelines; and ancillary facilities, including trailers for offices and change house, sanitary water treatment facility, and fueling station.

Generators would be used to supply electricity. The existing water well and pipeline system would be used for the water supply, if necessary. Bulk samples would be taken on mineralized materials being removed during the construction of the decline and underground exploration. The bulk samples would be stored temporarily on site and then transported off site for metallurgical testing. All proposed facilities, with the exception of the rapid infiltration basin system, would be constructed inside and confined to the previously disturbed area of the existing East Pit of the Ivanhoe Mine. The rapid infiltration basin system would be constructed south of the Ivanhoe Mine site and north of Antelope Creek. The proposed surface disturbance associated with this project is a total of 37 acres, of which 20 acres would be re-disturbed within the existing East Pit of the Ivanhoe Mine and 17 acres would be disturbed for the construction of the rapid infiltration basin system.

Up to approximately 385 gallons per minute of water may be encountered in the decline.

Sump pumps would remove any water encountered in the decline and it would be piped through the decline to the surface and then to the de-silting ponds and recycling ponds. The recycled water would be used for drilling. Excess water would be discharged through the pipeline to the rapid infiltration basins.

Written comments should be sent to: Hollister Development Block Project Coordinator, BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 Idaho Street, Elko, Nevada 89801, by the close of business on May 25, 2003. Comments will be used to guide the preparation of the environmental analysis, which will analyze the proposed action for the potential impacts and address issues and concerns.

For questions or more information, please contact Janice Stadelman by phone - (775) 753-0346, by email – Janice_Stadelman@nv.blm.gov, or by mail - 3900 Idaho St., Elko, NV, 89801.

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